



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

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Colonel James M. Manni
Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police
Director, Department of Public Safety

Lieutenant Christopher J. Zarrella
Executive Director
Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2020 (Special meeting)

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Edward Mello called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 9:12 a.m. on **January 3, 2020**.

Donna Lavallee took a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Edward Mello, Maria Deaton and Mr. Shawn Brown. A quorum has been met. Also present were Lieutenant Christopher Zarrella, David Ricciarelli, Donna Lavallee; Ryan Holt; Captain Michael Chalek, URI, Colonel Barzykowski, CFPD; Captain Christopher Reed, CFPD; Det. Weichtmann, CFPD; Ryan Holt, RIAG.

*Colonel Hugh Clements is present at 9:13 am.

2. Discussion of appeal request from Colonel Barzykowski, Central Falls PD

Lieutenant Zarrella explained that both recruits (Platt and Paliotte) successfully completed every aspect of the Academy except for Firearms. Both failed Firearms. Both received remedial instruction and were re-tested and both failed by a single round. He then called both Chiefs and explained their options. They both received 80 hours of Firearms instruction at the Academy. Chief Mello asked the Lieutenant to explain the testing system. Lieutenant Zarrella explained that there are three tests. They are tested after 80 hours and if they fail, they are tested again that same day. If they fail that, they are afforded a 3rd test. Typically, the recruit is sent back to their department where they undergo remedial. After about 4 weeks, the recruit takes the final test.

Det. Weichtmann stated that he had spent about 3-3 ½ hours with Recruit Platt prior to the re-test on remedial. He went over all the areas she was having problems with. Training since her 3rd fail has been about 5 hours with him and she has also been working with Off. Mlynec of Bristol (Academy Firearms Instructor). She has passed both the department and Academy qualification testing in her training. Lt. Zarrella added that Det. Weichtmann is one of our Lead Firearms Instructors. Colonel Barzykowski thanked the POST members for the opportunity and stated his request is two-fold. The first request is to permit Recruit Victoria Platt to be afforded the opportunity to take a re-test of the Firearms test. The second request is that if she doesn't pass, she be permitted to attend the Firearms 80 hour course during the next Academy class. She has been an outstanding recruit in all aspects of the Academy.

Colonel Clements added that on the Providence side they have a lot invested in their recruits and occasionally there is a recruit who struggles and they take similar action with given them remedial. David Ricciarelli added that the POST past practice is that the request is afforded. Chief Mello

asked Colonel Barzykowski to explain their department Firearms program. He stated they qualify two times a year with all live fire.

Chief Mello suggests the POST accept Colonel Barzykowski's request to allow a re-test; however, he is considered about the remedial hours for Recruit Platt. He would like to see another 8 hours given.

Colonel Clements made a motion to grant Colonel Barzykowski's request to afford Recruit Victoria Platt an additional opportunity to re-test with the condition that she have another 8 hours of remedial training. Maria Deaton seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

Chief Mello added that if she fails, the POST will re-convene to discuss Colonel Barzykowski's 2nd request.

3. Discussion of appeal from Chief David Briet, Foster PD

Chief Mello asked Lieutenant Zarrella if the staff could handle another recruit at Firearms Training given the large class and is he going to get 3 tests again. Lieutenant Zarrella replied that yes we could handle it and that he spoke with Captain Gould about the testing as the policy is vague. The recommendation is that if he is re-taking the 80 hour course, he is starting fresh so he will do everything again. Chief Mello stated that it is reasonable to allow him to go through the course but he is not comfortable with three more tests. If he doesn't pass after 80 more hours, would the POSY then re-convene again? Chief Breit added that if he doesn't pass after 80 additional hours, he will be released. Mr. Brown questioned the testing aspect. If we re-consider Platt going for the additional hours if she fails the re-test, then he should only be given 2 opportunities to be fair. He feels he should be given the 2 tests on the same day and no 3rd test.

Chief Clements made a motion to afford Recruit Joseph Paliotte the opportunity to attend the 80 hours Firearms instruction with the next class with the limitation of 2 opportunities only to test. Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

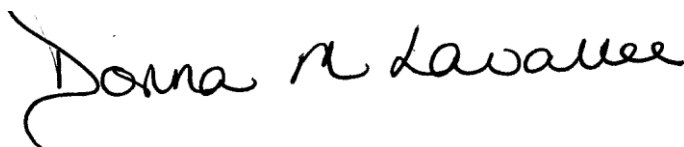
4. Discussion on re-scheduling the February POST meeting

Chief Mello asked for discussion on re-schedule dates for the February POST meeting as Ryan Holt has a conflict and cannot attend the scheduled February 20th meeting. After discussion, it was determined that the next meeting will be Wednesday, February 26, 2020.

5. Adjournment:

Chief Mello adjourned the meeting at 9:31 am

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna M Lavalley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna M. Lavalley
Administrative Assistant